REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action dated July 25, 2005

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-12, and 18-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of the combination of Fanning et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,366,907 (hereinafter Fanning) and Keskar, U.S. Patent No. 6,832,242. Fanning discloses an Internet-based real-time search engine in which a user who desires an object, web page, etc. may query the search engine using search terms and/or parameters so that the search engine may search a list of objects, residing on the server, for the availability of the requested objects hosted on remote servers. Fanning further discloses that the real time search engine may include means for purging objects from the resident lists if the hosts for such objects are disconnected from the system.

As noted by the Examiner, and as explained in detail in applicant's previous response, Fanning does not disclose a search and transfer method over an ad hoc network comprising at least one piconet, as specified in the rejected claims. The Examiner attempts to overcome this deficiency by combining Fanning with Keskar, which discloses a file-sharing system for Bluetooth devices. The Examiner's reliance on Keskar is misplaced because the file sharing system disclosed by Keskar differs markedly from the methods disclosed in the present application.

In particular, Keskar merely discloses that persons having Personal Digital Assistant's within range of each other may elect to share certain specified files. The specific file sharing methods disclosed by Keskar have several important restrictions, however. First, each PDA must have access to a single centralized server or database that can compare stored data for each user. *See, e.g.* Keskar at col. 2 lines 58-62 and FIG. 1. Second, the system of Keskar does not permit

a person having a PDA or other similar device to *initiate a search request and enter search terms and parameters related to a desired object* so that the centralized server can search other PDA's for that object. Instead, Keskar's system relies upon stored *profiles* of users or *lists* of users interested in objects stored on a respective user's PDA, and merely to determine whether respective pairs of users want to share *all* files stored in a "share file" directory on their respective PDAs. *See* Keskar at col. 3 lines 55-63; *see also Id.* at col. 9 line 66 to col. 10 line 31 (describing a "share user" database where the system collects information about the objects stored by each user's PDA and, using Salton Vectors, infers from those respective objects *lists* of users that *might be* in each object). Specifically, in a first embodiment Keskar permits a user A who desires to share information with user B, to query *his* PDA for any items inferred relevant to user B, using either the list of users interested in the item or the profile of user B. *See Id.* at col. 4 lines 1-8. Alternatively, in a second embodiment, B as recipient may initiate sharing in which case B merely sends a sharing request to A, whose PDA again, using lists and/or profiles, determines whether any information on A's PDA may be of use to B. *See Id.* at col. 4 lines 8-17. In either circumstance, the recipient B has no prior knowledge of, or input to, which objects are received from A.

Given that the system of Keskar does not provide for a user to initiate a search request for a desired object on another's computing device, it would provide no benefit to the system of Fanning, whose system is premised upon such search and retrieval. Thus one of ordinary skill in the art would have no motive to combine Fanning and Keskar because the combination would provide no additional functionality to either of their respective systems. Accordingly, the

Examiner's rejection is improper because the references cannot be combined in the manner suggested by the Examiner.

Furthermore, even were the references to be combined as suggested by the Examiner, each presented claim would still distinguish over that combination. Fanning discloses no means by which an object search, from user-entered parameters, may be accomplished over devices forming an ad-hoc network; rather, Fanning's system is hard-wired through the Internet where a user knows the address of the search engine. Neither does Keskar provide any means by which such an object search may be accomplished.

Independent claim 1, as amended, includes the limitations of "identifying a discovered data processing device that facilitates a remotely directed search for a data object" and "using an identified data processing device to search for said object on discovered said one or more data processing devices over a communication channel of said ad hoc network." Neither of these limitations are disclosed by the suggested combination of Fanning with Kestar. With respect to the first limitation, the "discovered data processing device" is one that was "communicating with said destination device over a communication channel of said ad hoc network." Fanning's search engine is connected via a web address over the Internet hence is neither "discovered" nor is it part of an ad-hoc network. Kestar discloses no device that facilitates a "remotely directed search for a data object." Kestar's method relies upon detecting *users* interested in objects on a *local* PDA so the local PDA may share those objects with discovered users of other PDAs.

With respect to the second limitation, the suggested combination would not use an identified device (either Fanning's search engine 10 or Kestar's centralized location 10) to perform a search on Kestar's PDA's "over a communication channel of said ad hoc network."

Fanning's system does not actually "search" remote servers or addresses for data objects in response to a search request; rather, Fanning's system merely uses an up-to-date list, *present on the server of the search engine*, of data objects on connected servers in order to identify remotely stored objects. *See* Fanning at col. 1 lines 47-56. Therefore, Fanning's search would not be performed "over a communication channel of an ad hoc network." As stated previously, Kestar's system does not search for objects in the first instance. Hence the cited combination fails to disclose this limitation, as well.

For each of these reasons, independent claim 1, as well as its dependent claims 3-12 patenably distinguish over the cited combination of Fanning and Kestar.

With respect to dependent claims 18-22, each of these claims depends from independent claim 17 which was *not* rejected by the Examiner in view of either Fanning or Kestar alone, or in combination. Therefore, the Examiner's rejection of these claims, which incorporate all the limitations of claim 17, is improper. Furthermore, independent claim 17, as amended, includes the limitation of "transmitting a search request including a user specified search parameter to a data processing device identified in said list of devices facilitating a search for and transfer of a data object, said identified data processing device capable of searching for said object on responding said devices over a communication channel of said ad hoc network." Thus the foregoing arguments with respect to claim 1 are equally applicable to claims 18-22.
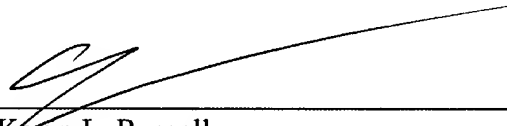
The Examiner rejected claims 2, 13-17, and 23-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over assorted combinations of Fanning with one or more of Keskar, the Bluetooth specification, and Fielding et al. Dependent claims 2 and 13-16 each depend from independent claim 1 and are therefore distinguished over the cited combination because Fanning's search

engine would not perform a search "over a communication channel of an ad hoc network" even

if it were part of an ad hoc network. Similarly, independent claim 17, as amended, along with its

dependent claims 23-26 each include the limitation of "said identified data processing device

capable of searching for said object on responding said devices over a communication channel of

said ad hoc network." Hence claims 17, and 23-26 are also distinguishable over the cited

combination.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the applicant respectfully requests

reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-26.

Respectfully submitted,

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